



January 2018

Greetings:

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Maternal and Child Health! Founded in 1950 as a free-standing department of the UNC School of Public Health, the Department of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) is the only stand-alone, academically autonomous department of maternal and child health within an accredited school of public health in the nation. Our department is one of 13 Centers of Excellence in MCH Education, Science and Practice funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Our faculty, staff and students are dedicated to improving the health of women, children and families domestically and globally. Our teaching program provides students with broad exposure to maternal and child health population needs and priorities, as well as the skills to become leaders of tomorrow.



Given our population focus, we are committed to collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching, research and practice. MCH faculty members represent a rich mix of academic backgrounds and interests, contributing expertise in a wide range of topics that impact children and families. MCH faculty have received doctoral/professional training in pediatrics, nutrition, sociology, social work, epidemiology, statistics, psychology, economics, demography, geography, obstetrics and gynecology, maternal/fetal medicine, anthropology, and population/international health. The majority of our faculty members also hold graduate degrees in public health.

We offer an array of master's, doctoral, and dual degree options that encompass both domestic and global study, and include both research and practice. Our flexible curriculum allows students and their faculty mentors to craft learning opportunities that are uniquely suited to career goals. Our fully integrated, interdisciplinary population-based approach provides our students with broad exposures to MCH population issues, needs and responses in diverse settings and prepares graduates to be the MCH leaders of tomorrow.

Our research strengths include: developing a strong evidence base to improve health policies, programs and practices for women and children, locally and globally; working in interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions for addressing health disparities among women and children; using innovative approaches, including implementation science, to support the successful implementation of proven women's and children's interventions at scale; and using quantitative and qualitative methods to improve the health of women, children and families in North Carolina, the nation and the world.

The demand for well-trained maternal and child health professionals continues to expand, both within the United States and globally. Most of the eight United Nations' Millennium Development Goals<sup>1</sup> were

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/topics/millennium\\_development\\_goals/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/)

integrally linked to maternal and child health. Similarly, the United Nations' current Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup> are central to the well-being of women and children. Given these ongoing priorities, the need for teachers, research and practice leaders in the field of maternal and child health has never been greater. The department has trained almost 1500 graduate students who have gone on to contribute to the health of women, children, and families in a wide array of academic, clinical, public health, and policy settings.

MCH has a very active and committed alumni chapter, which supports our students, faculty and departmental mission. These alumni work or have worked in our local communities, the state of North Carolina, throughout the United States and globally to improve the lives of women, children and families. This group of dedicated professionals provides an unparalleled support network and can provide career advice, connections for field placements and jobs, and mentoring.

We hope you will consider becoming part of our MCH family and help us to advance the health of women and children around the globe.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn T. Halpern', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn T. Halpern, PhD  
Professor and Chair

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=1021&type=230&menu=2059>